

Cancel Claims 10, 11, 19, 20, and 22.

destructuring the ferroelectric material in the presence of a liquid and a surfactant to give destructured particles, wherein the liquid is a solvent for the surfactant and the surfactant is adapted to stabilize the destructured particles against agglomeration;

melting the blend of the stabilized, destructured ferroelectric material particles and a thermoplastic polymer; and

melt extruding the molten blend to form fibers[.];  
in which the particles of a ferroelectric material are present at a level of from about 0.01 to about 50 percent by weight, based on the weight of the fiber.

Cancel claims 24-40, inclusive, without disclaimer or prejudice. 25, 26, 32, and 33.

Claim 41 (Amended). A filtration medium comprising the nonwoven web of Claim

Cancel claims 47 and 48 without disclaimer or prejudice.

Claim 49 (Amended). A vacuum cleaner bag comprising the nonwoven web of Claim [20] 21.

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Cont 1  
In the Accompanying Rule 1.53(b) Application

Claim 50 (Amended). A face mask comprising the nonwoven web of Claim [20] 21.

Cancel claim 51 without disclaimer or prejudice.

B6  
Claim 52 (Amended). A respirator comprising the nonwoven web of Claim [20] 21.

Claim 53 (Amended). A dust wipe comprising the nonwoven web of Claim [20] 21.

[Please add the following new claim:]

B7  
54. A multicomponent fiber comprised of two or more components, each of which is comprised of a thermoplastic polymer, wherein at least one component is comprised of

a thermoplastic polymer; and

particles of a ferroelectric material dispersed therein at a level of from about 0.01 to about 50 percent by weight, based on the weight of the fiber, wherein the particles of the ferroelectric material have been destructured;

in which the fiber has been exposed to an electric field in order to reorient the spontaneous polarization of the ferroelectric particles.

#### Remarks

The present application is a division of application Serial No. 08/762,213, in which application a requirement for restriction was presented. The present application is directed to the nonelected groups in the earlier application, namely, the groups consisting of Claims 9-18 and 21-53 as represented by the independent claims and selected dependent claims. Various of the claims have been amended to more closely correspond to claims allowed in application Serial No. 08/762,213. In addition, the specification has been amended to identify all predecessor applications. Finally, one new claim has been added to cover a multicomponent fiber in which the particles of a ferroelectric material have been destructured.